## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 13 through 22, 29 through 34 and 50 through 53 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A container manager, comprising:

a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid, forming a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement with said housing, and providing an open interior able to removably receive items within said open interior while said lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

a port disposed to conduct data signals through said housing;

a control stage comprised of a memory storing information specific to said container, said control stage being mounted entirely within and being completely encased by said container during said complete engagement, and being operationally coupled to provide communication with said interior via said port, and generating a control signal in dependence upon disposition of said port relative to a source of said data signals, in dependence upon disposition of said container within a scheme for generation of said data signals, and in response to occurrence of a coincidence between a data key received among said data signals via said port and a data sequence obtained by said control stage in dependence upon said information stored within said memory; and

a moveable latch disposed to engage said lid and hinder removal of said lid from said complete engagement, and to respond to said control signal by releasing said lid from said complete engagement.

2. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of a socket mounted within said housing providing said port.

3. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of an infrared receiver mounted within said housing providing said port.

4. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of an antenna mounted within said housing providing said port.

5. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via said port, generating said data key; and

a data cable coupling said host computer to said port.

6. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via said port, generating said data key; and

a local area network coupling said host computer to said port.

7. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via said port, generating said data key;

said port comprising a first antenna mounted on one of said sidewalls;

a data transceiver connecting said first antenna and said controller; and

a second antenna driven by said host computer, operationally connecting said host computer to said first antenna.

8. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via said port, generating said data key;

an infrared transmitter driven by said host computer to broadcast an infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

an infrared receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls, disposed to receive said data key from said infrared transmitter.

9. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via said port, generating said data key;

a first infrared transmitter and receiver driven by said host computer to broadcast an infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

a second infrared transmitter and receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls, disposed to receive said data key from said infrared transmitter, and to transmit operational communications from said controller to said host computer via said first infrared transmitter and receiver.

10. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

said controller generating an alarm signal in response to an unauthorized interruption of said communication via said port; and

an alarm driven by said controller to broadcast an indication of said unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm signal.

11. (Original) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via said port, periodically making a determination of whether said an unauthorized interruption of said communication has occurred; and

an alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said unauthorized interruption in dependence upon said determination.

12. (Previously Presented) The container manager of claim 1, further comprised of:

said controller generating an alarm signal in response to an unauthorized interruption of said communication via said port;

a first alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said unauthorized interruption in response to said alarm signal;

a microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via said port, periodically making a determination of whether said unauthorized interruption of said communication has occurred; and

a second alarm driven by said host computer to broadcast an indication of said unauthorized interruption in dependence upon said determination.

Claims 13 - 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A container manager, comprising:

a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid, forming a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement with said housing, and providing an open interior able to removably receive items within said open interior while said lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

a port disposed to conduct data signals through said housing;

a control stage comprised of a memory, said control stage being mounted on said container and being operationally coupled to provide communication with said interior via said port, and generating a control signal in response to occurrence of a coincidence between a data key received among said data signals via said port and a data sequence obtained by said control stage in dependence upon information stored within said memory, in dependence upon disposition of said port relative to a source of said data signals and in dependence upon disposition of said container within a timed scheme for generation of said data signals;

a microprocessor based host computer sited externally to said container, said host computer comprising a keyboard initiating formation of said data signals and a monitor

driven by said host computer to visually display video images, said host computer being operationally coupled to said port and participating in said communication by generating said data signals; and

an electromechanical latch disposed to engage said lid and hinder removal of said lid from said complete engagement, and to respond to said control signal by releasing said lid from said complete engagement.

24. (Original) The container manager of claim 23, further comprised of a data cable coupling said host computer to said port.

25. (Original) The container manager of claim 24, further comprised of a local area network coupling said host computer to said port.

26. (Original) The container manager of claim 25, further comprised of:

said port comprising a first antenna mounted on one of said sidewalls;

a data transceiver connecting said first antenna and said controller; and

a second antenna driven by said host computer, operationally connecting said host computer to said first antenna.

27. (Original) The container manager of claim 26, further comprised of:

an infrared transmitter driven by said host computer to broadcast an infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

an infrared receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls, disposed to receive said data key from said infrared transmitter.

28. (Original) The container manager of claim 27, further comprised of:

a first infrared transmitter and receiver driven by said host computer to broadcast an infrared signal corresponding to said data key; and

a second infrared transmitter and receiver mounted in one of said sidewalls, disposed to receive said data key from said infrared transmitter, and to transmit operational communications from said controller to said host computer via said first infrared transmitter and receiver.

Claims 29 - 34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) A container manager, comprising:

a housing comprised of a plurality of sidewalls bearing a removable lid, forming a container having a closed interior while said lid is in complete engagement with said housing, and providing an open interior able to removably receive items within said open interior while said lid is dislodged from said complete engagement;

a source of an input signal representing a first class of information, mounted upon and borne by said housing;

a port disposed to accommodate transmission of data signals through said housing;

a control stage comprised of a memory storing a second class of information specific to said container, said control stage being mounted entirely within and being completely encased by said container during said complete engagement, and being operationally coupled to provide communication with said interior via said port, and generating a control signal in dependence upon disposition of said port relative to an origin of said data signals, in dependence upon said information represented by said input signal, and in response to occurrence of a coincidence between a data key received among said data signals via said port and a data sequence obtained by said control stage in dependence upon said information stored within said memory; and

a latch mounted on said housing and disposed to engage said lid and hinder removal of said lid from said complete engagement, and to respond to said control signal by releasing said lid from said complete engagement.

36. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said source detecting movement of said lid, and said first class of information indicating said movement.

37. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said source detecting a position of said lid, and said first class of information indicating said position.

38. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said control stage generating said control signal in response to instructions received by said control stage from said host computer independently of said disposition of said port, independently of said

information represented by said input signal, and independently of said occurrence of coincidence.

39. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said control stage generating said control signal in dependence of said disposition of said port, in dependence of said information represented by said input signal, in dependence of said occurrence of coincidence, and in response to instructions received by said control stage from a host computer coupled to said port.

40. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said data key being encoded and being available only at destination.

41. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said data key being encoded and being transmitted to said port from said origin.

42. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said data key being encoded and being available only at destination.

43. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of a

microprocessor based host computer operationally coupled to said controller via said port, generating said data signals.

44. (Original) The container manager of claim 43, further comprised of said host computer comprising a cellular telephone bearing a graphical user interface.

45. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of some or all of said data signals being transmitted across or received one of an Internet and a wide area network.

46. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said data signals comprising one of an e-mail packet and an attachment to an e-mail message.

47. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said information represented by said source comprising a global location of the container, and said control stage generating said control signal in dependence of said disposition of said port, in dependence of said information represented by said input signal, and in dependence of said occurrence of coincidence.

48. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and a user at one of said origin and said destination requests via a network a request for some part of said data key.

49. (Original) The container manager of claim 35, further comprised of said container being transportable between an origin and a destination, and said second class of information is installed at said origin comprises biometric data matching a person of a human user of said container and said coincidence must be made with biometric data matching said person at said destination.

Claims 50 - 53. (Canceled)